A true Diſcourſe concerning the certaine poſſeſsion and diſpoſſeſſion of 7 perſons in one familie in *Lancaſhire*, which alſo may ſerve as part of an Anſwere to a fayned and falſe *Diſcoverie* which ſpeaketh very much evill, aſwell of this, as of the reſt of thoſe great and mightie workes of God which bee of the like excellent nature.

By *George More*, Miniſter and Preacher *of the worde of God, and now (for bearing witneſſe vnto this, and for ſuſtiſying the reſt) a priſoner in the Clinke, where he hath continued almoſt for the ſpace of two yeares.*

Remember thou magnifie the worke of God which men beholde. Iob. 36. 24.

We ſpeake that we know, & teſtifie that which we haue ſeene: but ye receiue not our teſtimonie. Iob. 3. 11.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

1600.

To the Chriſtian

READER.

FOraſmuch good Reader as it is the maner of men that ſet foorth any ſtorie, though it be but ſhort, to giue a Reaſon of their purpoſe therein, leaſt they ſhould ſeeme either raſhly to attempt that which is not conuenient, or otherwiſe buſie them ſelues to bring forth that which is not neceſſarie, for this cauſe I haue thought good to prefixe theſe Reaſons enſuing to this diſcourſe, that ſo the weighing of them might make the matter ſomething more worth in their conceite, with whom nothing (though of it ſelfe it be neuer ſo ſauorie) taſteth well, except it be rare and excellent, neither can they digeſt that, which is verie good and wholeſome, except it be of great conſequence and expectation: this ſorte may miſlike the handling of this ſtrange ſtorie in this harſhe manner, whiles they affecte great and high things: yet the mouing cauſes of ſetting it out being conſidered, may ouercome that curioſitie, and worke ſome contentement.

First then in respect that both the Storie of the possession & dispossession of Thomas Darling, *and also many things concerning the straunge handling of* William Sūmers *to seconde the same, are both put in print, & though the trueth of both be sufficiētlie cleared therin, yet there is great opposition both by worde & writing offered of set purpose to hinder the crediting of either: I thought it fit to adde to these two the storie of those in* Lancashire, *as famous as the rest, both in that they were 7 in one familie all possessed at once, as also that they were all 7 dispossessed within two dayes by prayer and fasting: that this also being published as the thirde glorious witnes of the wonderfull Workes of God wrought and seene in 3 seuerall Shires of our lande, all men might be the more mooued to beleeue the trueth of these thinges: seeing at the mouth of 3 such sufficient Witnesses, it is so surely sealed vp and confirmed.*

Secondlie, in respect of the papistes who do e more maligne this particular of Lancashire then any of the rest, labouring mightilie and by many meanes both to discredite and disannull it; wherevpon some of them haue giuen it out, that those 7 were not possest: other say, that they were all 7 possest bu

but neuer yet dispossest: and some others of them affirme, that they were all dispossessed, yet not by Preachers of the Gospell, but by their Seminaries, & masse-priestes: and this last runnes for currante among them.

For there being 8 or 9 Seminaries in the Clincke, diuers of them stood out against me to my face, and tolde me, that what soeuer was done in Lancashire by vs, was done by coniuring and knauerie: And though M. Starkie him selfe did iustifie the whole matter, and cleared it from all their slaunders, and that before the chiefest of them in the Clincke, yet they receyued not his testimonie, but tolde him, they had receyued the report of this from a Gentleman in that countrie, whom they would credit before him in this case. And no maruell, for if the Church of Englande haue this power to cast out devills, then the Church of Rome is a false Church, for there can be but one true Church, the principall marke whereof (as they say) is to worke miracles, and of them this is the greatest, namely to cast out Devills. And hereupon conferring at another tyme with two of them, they brought out this bold protestation, that if we could proove any such power to be in our Church, and shew them an infallible instance or example to iustifie

the practiſe thereof, then would they ioyne themſelves to your Church aſſemblies, and freely embrace our religion.

Thirdlie, in reſpect of that groſſe and great errour, which is a common and receiued opinion among the moſt, namely, that we doe challenge to our ſelues ſome ſpeciall gift to caſt out Deuills aboue other men, which though we haue vtterly diſclaymed, yet many doe ignorantlie aſcribe the effect of the worke wrought, rather to ſome extraordinarie power in vs, then to the ordinance of Chriſt, which in no caſe ought ſo to be.

But chieflie I haue taken in hande this brief diſcourſe for the better clearing both of Ma. Darrell and my ſelfe, from thoſe accuſations and ſlaunders of cosinage & counterfeiting, wherwithall we are charged both by word and writing, as if wee were guiltie thereof, even in this particular of Lancaſhire.

Diſcouer. booke 1. chap 5. pag. 29.

For there is a booke of a large volume latelie come out vnder the name of S. H. croſſhing and contradicting the whole courſe of proceeding for Mai. Darrels clearing, youking me alſo with him in this develiſh legerdemaine (as they terme it) calling vs a couple of couſining hipocrites, vſing alſo manie other

ether badde termes.

The title of this booke is termed, A discoverie of fraudulent practises concerninge pretended possessions. *It contained 5 bookes, the first whereof doth more concerne me, & the matter of facte for* Lancashire, *then the rest doe: so much therfore as I can conveniently for the clearing of both, I will answer vnto, and leaue the rest vnto him who hath iust occasion offered, to vse his best defence in that behalfe.*

Lastlie for that this discouerer, whosoeuer he be, finds great fault with some of our frindes, for that they spake so much of the dispossession of Summers *in a little treatise or two, but nothing of the dispossessiō of these 7 in Lancashire and of some others: And seemes sometimes to challēge vs to make our answere, if we haue any more to say, and to speake for our selves what we can.*

Discoverie booke 1. chap. 3. pag. 17. booke 2. chap. 10. pag. 58. booke 5. chap. 8. pa. 324.

Vpon these iust occasions, I haue vndertaken this short discourse, hoping here by to detect the falsehoode of this discouerie concerning this particular facte, by clearing it, and in it the rest which are like vnto it, of such malitious slaunders as are raysed against it: that so all things being faithfullie described from point to point, appertayning to this matter, all men may see, both what

great cauſe I haue aboue any other to defende this, as the wonderfull worke of God, as alſo that it might better appeare, whether we or they that haue written and dealt againſt vs, be deepeſt in this diſſimulation, and who bee greateſt couſiners and deceyuers.

A brief

A briefand true diſcourſe contayning the certayne poſſeſſion and diſpoſſeſſion of 7 perſons in one familie in *Lancaſhire*, as namely of *Iohn Starkie*, *Anne Starkie*, *Margret Hurdman*, *Ellynor Hurdman*, *Ellen Hollande*, *Margret Byrom*, and *Iane Aſhton*, which may ſerve (as an interim) for a peece of an anſwere to that fraudulent diſcoverie lately come out, which depraveth theſe, aſwell as the reſt of thoſe great & mightie workes of God, which be of the ſame kinde.



IN this diſcourſe, I meane not to meddle with that deceitful and depraving diſcoverie, further then concernes this matter of facte for Lancaſhire onlie, reſerving all matters of opinion, and the anſwering of all their obi ctions, to a more full and fitter time. And ſo avoyding all tediouſnes as neare as I can, I will indevour fullie and plainly to reveile the trueth, that I may quicklie diſpatch the ſtorie.

And becauſe the drift of this deſperate detractour is to detecte our dealing with the 7 to be a deceiueable practize, aſwell

as the reſt which are (by him) pretended ſo to be: And that this chiefeſt oppoſition vnto this worke conſiſteth in 5. principall things, which being ſore vrged, and eaſilie receyued, will endanger greatly the credit of the Storie. In reſpect hereof, I will digeſt this whole diſcourſe into 5 principall heades or chiefe places; which may ſerue fitly, both to giue more light to the ſtorie, and for a more direct anſwere to the diſcouerie.

In the firſt place, I will as truelie as I can deſcribe the ſtate of theſe perſons and of their ſtrange and troubleſome afflictions, together with the outward cauſes and occaſions thereof, which alſo continued for the moſt parte, for the ſpace of two yeares and a halfe, before we came vnto them.

Secondly, I will ſet downe the ſtraunge ſignes ſhewed forth by them, both generally and particularly, to prooue that they were truely and actually poſſeſſed.

In the 3 place I will ſhew the cauſes and occaſions of our cõming into Lancaſhire, & what beginning & proceeding we made in performing that great worke which we tooke in hande.

Fourthly, I will manifeſt the meanes, & cleare the maner of their deliuerance.

And

And laſtly, I will brieflie mention the ſignes of their diſpoſſeſſiō, which may ſerve to cleare it from all ſuſpition.

Theſe points I purpoſe briefly to touch, & not to handle them at large according to the worthines of the matter, which indeed is ſuch as doth deſerve both a more ful diſcourſe, and alſo a more pregnant facultie to commend it, then I am able to afforde.

In the firſt place, order requireth, that we ſhewe the ſtate of theſe 7 perſons afflicted, before we come vnto them, which was moſt ſtrange and fearfull, and howe it came ſo to paſſe, and of the continuance of it for the ſpace of two yeares and more: all which may plainly appeare by this which followeth.

At Climworth in Lancaſhire within the pariſh of Leigh, there dwelleth one Nicholas Starkie gentleman, who maried a gentlewoman that was an inheretrix, and of whoſe kinred ſome were papiſtes, of whom ſome partly for Religion, and partlie for that the lande deſcended not to the heires male, wiſhed and vowed ful to pray for the periſhing of her iſſue, and accordingly 4 of her children (though at their birth likely to liue) yet afterward pined away in moſt ſtrange maner.

Some

Some of Mrs Starkies kinred obſerving how one childe pined away after another, moued with cõpaſſion, told Miſtrers Starkie of the ſaid vnnatural vowe, ſhe hereupon conceyued ſuch a grief, that ſhe made an eſtate of her lande to her huſband & his heires, (all iſſue fayling her ſelfe.) After which conveyance made, Miſtres Starkie had two children, a ſonne and a daughter, both which proſpered well, till they came to 10 or 12 yeares of age, but thẽ with fiue moe in her family, they were poſſeſſed and vexed with evill ſpirites, as the ſequele doeth declare.

In the beginning of February 1594: firſt Anne the daughter was taken with a dumpiſhe heavie countenance, and with a certain fearfull ſtarting & pulling together of her bodie. About a weeke after, Iohn Starkie the ſonne was taken as he was going to ſchole, and was compelled to ſhowte vehementlie, not being able to ſtay him ſelfe. After this they waxed worſe and worſe, falling into often ſtrange & extreame fittes.

Wherewith M. Starkie grieved & having bin at charges 200 lb. or therabouts, ſoght remedie without due regard, (for to ſpeake of no more) he went to a Seminarie Prieſt, who could do no good, becauſe (forſooth) he

he had not then his bookes, wherevpon M. Starkie cõtinued ſtil ſeeking for helpe: and heard of one Edmond Hartley a witch whom hee made acquainted with the ſtate of his children, and with large offers craved his helpe: in the end Hartley conſented to come. Who being there, and hauing vſed certayne popiſh charmes and hearbes, by degrees, the children were at quiet, & ſo continued, ſeeming to be well almoſt a yeare and a halfe; All which time Hartley came often to viſit thé, at length he fayned as though he would goe into another countrie, but whither M. Starkie might not know, and when hee began to goe his way, Iohn Starkie fell a bleeding, and Hartley comming to him, ſaied, if he had bene but 40 roodes from him, none could haue ſtaunched him, and thus it fell out at other times.

M. Starkie then fearing leaſt his children would be much troubled in his abſence, & he vncertaine where to find him, offered to giue 40. ſhillings a yeare pention for his aſſiſtance in time of need, which offer at the firſt hee conſented to accepte, but afterward not ſatisfied, hee coueted more (houſe and ground:) which whé M. Starkie refuſed to giue, he threatned in a

fume

ſume in the abſence of M. Starkie, but in the hearing of many, that if he would not fulfill his minde, hee would make ſuch a ſhowre at Clewerth, as neuer was heard, which was alſo effected in ſuch a hideous and fearfull maner, as the like in England hath not bene heard.

After this Mai. Starkie going to his Fathers houſe, this Hurtley went with him, who being there after he was in bed, was tormented ſore all night longe: the next day being recouered, he went into a little wood not farre off from the houſe where he made a Circle the compas of a yard and halfe, with many croſſes and partitions, which being finiſhed he came back to call M. Starkie, telling him what he had done, and deſired him to goe and tread out his circle, for he ſaid he might not doe it him ſelfe. This beeing alſo diſpatched, well quoth hee, now I ſhall trouble him that troubled me, and be meete with him that ſought my death.

Whē M. Starkie perceyued this, & many other bad qualities in this fellowe, he waxed wearie of him, eſpecially ſeeing no amendment in his children but that they rather became worſe and worſe, hee then ſought (though ſecretlie) for other helpe

to

to the Phisitions: after that to one Doctor Dee at Manchester, who wished Mai. Starkie to craue the helpe & assistance of some godlie Preacher, with whom hee should ioyne in prayer and fasting, for the helpe of his children.

He procured also the saide Hartley the Witch to come before him, whom hee so sharplie reprooved, that the children had better rest for some 3 weekes after.

But then they began their accustomed fittes: first Iohn Starkie about the 4 of Ianuarie 96. as he was reading of a booke, something gaue him such a thumpe in the necke, that he was suddenly striken down with a most horrible skrike, and said that Satan had broken his necke, lying there pitifullie tormented for the space of two houres.

At night on the same day being in bed, he leapt out on a suddaine with such a terrible outcry, that amazed them all, being tossed and tumbled a long time, being exceeding fierce and strong like a mad man, or rather like a madd dogge, that I may so speake, snatching at and biting euerie bodie that laide hold on him, not sparing in that fitt his owne mother: smiting furiously all that came neare him, hurling the bed-

bed ſtaues at their heades, and throwing the pillowes into the fire.

His ſiſter Anne likewiſe beganne again to be troubled, & three other yong girles in the houſe, of whom Mai. Starkie had the education, with their portions committed vnto him by their parēts. The firſt was Margret Hurdman of 14 yeares age: the ſecond Ellinor her ſiſter of 10 yeares: the third Ellen Holland of 12 yeares, theſe all had many ſtrange and ſore fittes being poſſeſſed by this witches meanes: His maner was when he ment them a miſchiefe, then he would kiſſe them if he could, and therewith breathe the Devil into their bodies: he kiſſed Iohn Starkie, and all the maydes that were poſſeſt, Margret Byrom, Iane Aſhton, & all: he ſtrugled much with one Ioan Smith to haue kiſſed her, but with much a doe ſhe eſcaped his handes, ſo that of all the maide ſeruants, ſhe onely was preſerued and not once troubled at al. Wherevpon Ellinor ſaid in one of her fits, that if Edmond had kiſſed her, three men could not haue held her.

Margret Byrom of 33 yeares, a kinſwoman to Miſtres Starky, comming to Cleworth to ſee her friendes, in her continuance there beganne to be troubled like the

the reſt, & by the ſame meanes; for Hartley the Witch beeing in a ſore fitt in the night, ſhe in a deſire to comfort him, went into his chamber and ſat down by his bed ſide, and beganne to ſpeake vnto him, and it was not long before he roſe vp, and ſitting vppon his bed, hee leaned his heade downe to the maide who ſatt iuſt vnderneath him, whereupon ſhe was ſuddenlie taken that ſhee could neither ſtande nor ſpeake; when ſhe endevoured to ariſe, ſhe could not; when others held her vp, ſhee ſunke downe & became ſenceles: but Edmond the Witch lefte her and went to another rowme, and he had no moe fittes after while he was at Cleworth, though he had divers before he met with this maide.

Iane Aſhton of the age of xxx yeres, being the laſt that was poſſeſt, confeſſed, that once croſſing of Edmond, hee tolde her, ſhe had beſt be content, or ells hee would anger the beſt vaine in her harte: at other times ſhe ſaid, he offered great kindnes & large promiſſes in the way of mariage, and had kiſſed her alſo: the like loving affections he ſomtimes ſhewed to Margret Byrom, as ſhe confeſſed, and had kiſſed her alſo as it was thought.

About the 14 of Ianuarie, the 5 yongeſt

ſort began the renewing of their ſtraunge fitts, entring ordinarilie thereinto by a verie ſuddaine and fearfull skriking, barking & howling, in ſuch a hideous noyſe, as can not be expreſſed.

Shortlie after this time, Margret Byrom haſted homeward to her mothers houſe at Salford neare Mancheſter, hoping to finde ſome more eaſe and releaſe from her fittes then ſhe did at Cleworth: ſhee taking her leaue, Edmond the witch ſaide he would goe with her home though he never came again, ſo ſhe went accompanied with him and another: in the way being 7 miles, ſhe had 10 fittes: when ſhe was recouered, ſhe deſired Edmond to tell her how ſhe might be holpen; he tolde her plainlie, that both ſhe and the reſt were paſt his handes, and that no one man could do them any good, it was too great a worke, but they muſt be 3, or 2 at the leaſt with feruent and hartie prayer.

After ſhe came home, her fittes doubled and ſtill encreaſed, Edmond came to her euery day: ſo ſoone as ſhe ſaw him ſhe fell ſtraight into a fitt, and therein ſorer handled then euer ſhe was before. There came in diuers to ſee her, and ſome Preachers, who founde Edmond with her, and ſuſpe-

cting

ging him by ſome ſignes, aſked him what he did with the maid, he ſaid that he came to pray with her. Pray! quoth one, why man thou canſt not pray: yes but I can, quoth he: ſay then the Lords prayer, ſaide the Preacher: and he began to fumble about it verie ilfavouredlie; but could not for his life ſay it to the ende. They then thought him to be a witch, & cauſed him preſentlie to be apprehended, and brought before 2 Iuſtices of peace, where hee was examined, and after diuers witneſſes had come againſt him, the Iuſtices ſent him backe to Margret Byrom, that ſhe might accuſe him to his face; but ſo ſoone as ſhe ſaw him, ſtraightway ſhe fell down backwards and became ſpeechles, this was tryed the ſecond time, yea 5 times was hee brought to her, & ſhe was euer caſt down, and ſtriken dumbe, ſo that ſhee could not ſpeake one word againſt him.

Yet when he was taken away, and ſet behinde the backes of the people, ſhee recouered her ſelf, began to ſpeake to him, & to charge him with many thinges, vppon which accuſations of hers, & many other teſtimonies taken againſt him for witcherie, he was by the Iuſtices ſent to Lancaſter Iayle. In the way thitherward, he came by

Cleworth to fetch his clothes to carrie with him: the 2 of Februarie 1597. and all the children ſeeming to be well before he came, preſently they fell into verie violent and outragious fittes; they made at him al at once, offring to ſtrike him; It was much a doe for two ſtrong men to hold the leaſt of them; and if they had not bene forcibly reſtrayned, the witch had bene in great daunger, for they were ſo fierce and furious againſt him, as if they would haue pulled him in pieces.

After this, about ꝧ beginning of March, when Ma. *Hopwood* Iuſtice of peace came of purpoſe to take the teſtimonie of theſe 5 children againſt Edmonde the witch, to carrie to Lancaſter at the Aſſiſes to further his inditement, thē theſe 5 euerie one became ſpeachles, and beeing called for one after another, they fell and ſunke downe by the way, not being able to goe, nor to ſtande, nor ſpeake one word. After the Iuſtice was gone, they complayned that Edmond had ſtopt their mouthes, & would not ſuffer them to ſpeake.

At the ſame time Iane Aſhton began to howle, and to barke, when ſhee ſhould be brought in for a witnes againſt Edmond, whereupon one of the yonger girles ſaide

ther

then in her fitt: Ah Edmond, doest thou trouble her now, when shee should testifie against thee.

Margret Byrom also two nightes before her examination against Edmond, had diuers apparitions, wherin she was sore terrified by the Deuill in Edmonds likenes, charging her deepely to take heede what she said against him, for now the time was come.

And when the Assises came, Edmonde was brought forth, arraigned, and conuicted: Mai. Starkie having charged him with bewitching his children, which hee proved sufficientlie, & made it evident to the whole bench: howbeit (for that) they could finde no law to hange him, whereupon M. Starkie called to minde the making of the circle (whereof we haue alreadie spoken) which being deliuered vpon his oath, was receyued. Yet Edmond stiflie denied it, and stoode out against him, and tolde him to his face, that hee should not hang him, let him doe what he could, (for the Devill had promised him, that no halter should hange him) yet the Iurie cast him; the Iudge cõdemned him, Hartley was hanged & the halter brake, whervpon he penitentlie confessed, that he had

deſerued that puniſhment, and that all which M. Starkie had charged him with, was true, and ſo he was hanged out the ſecond time.

Now this being ſo, as you haue heard, howe deteſtable then is that Diſcouerie which is come out, fraught with ſo manie fraudulent accuſations againſt this cauſe, ſpecially charging theſe 7 perſons to be al counterfaits, & that M. Darrel had taught them that deceitfull trade, coupling mee equallie with him in that craftie iuglinge (as they call it,) making vs bewitching mates, and ioint companions, working together in that couſinage. Againſt which infamous ſclaunder, that which hitherto hath bene obſerved, is ſufficient to cleare vs. For herein wee haue ſeene the parties proved to be bewitched. Secõdly the parties bewitching every one of them. Third lie, the cauſes therof mentioned in the beginning. Fourthly, diuerſe & ſundry witneſſes. Fifthly, his apprehẽding, examining, impriſoning, indighting, condemning, & executing, are vpon recorde. Moreover, the Iurie, the Iudge, and the Bench, together with the whole Aſſiſes holdẽ at Lancaſter, about the 6 of March Anno 1597: doe all beare witnes to our innocency and

doe

doe iuſtifie vs to be iuſte men, concerning this matter, and with greate indignation, doe deteſt and defie all detecting diſcoueries to the contrarie whatſoeuer: And laſt of all, that memorable execution of Edmond Hartley the coniurer & witch, who was hanged with a witnes: the gallowes, the halter, and his dubble hanging, together with that laſt and famous confeſſion out of his owne mouth, that hee was the man that had done the deede, and onely guiltie of bewitching theſe 7 ſeuerall parties, and of ſending evill ſpirits into them. This famous champion doth chaleng this diſcouerer to bee but a deceivable detractour, and a falſe accuſer of the brethren: And is alſo moſt ſufficient to cleare vs in this matter, againſt all Atheiſtes and Papiſtes, and the whole worlde.

And thus much ſhal ſuffice for the firſt point.

(·.·)

The second part.

THe second thing that must bee cleared in this Discourse, is the possession of these 7 persons, to which purpose I wil proceede to shew the straunge signes acted by euery one of thē in particular first, & after cōtract them more briefly in the general, by which I hope it will appeare to the indifferent Reader, that such great thinges were done by thē, as be very harde & vnvsual quite beyond the nature of things, & such as neither by arte, nor any humaine skil could be coūterfaited: that as the first part of this Discourse hath cleared vs from counterfaiting; so this may be sufficient to prove the truth of their possession, contrarie to that overbolde, & confident confutation made by the discouerer, who laboreth both toth and nayle, to crosse and contradict the same.

Frist Iohn Starkie sonne and heire of M. Nicholas Starkie, among sundrie fitts had some very rare and strang, wherein he shewed very extraordinary knowledge, for he being but of the age of 12 yeres, or there abouts, did in his traunce declare the straunge

straunge sinnes of this land committed in all estates & degrees of people, denounced the fearfull iudgements of God due vnto them. He thē exhorted his parents, & the people there present to repent, that they might avoide all those grievous plagues, and wished that all the whole land might doe the like. After this hee made a most excellēt prayer, first for the whole church, then for the Queenes Maiestie for the subduing of her enemies, for the continuance of her life, and peaceable governement, for the vpholding of the Gospell, and for all the true Ministers of Christe, for those that haue Authoritie, for his parents, and all the people of God. In this exhortation & prayer, he continued aboue two houres performing the same so excellently both for the matter and maner of handling and vttering the same, as they that heard it did admire it, & thought that a good preacher could very hardly haue done the like, this being done, he sunge a good peece of the 4 Psalme in a most sweete and heavenly tune, as ever might be heard. All this was done in a traunce, his eyes being closed vp, & neither knew what he said nor did; In this longe and continued speach, his father wished him to lie still, & to speak no

more;

more: saying vnto him, sonne, thou marrest thy head, and canst not tell what thou sayest: yes father, quoth hee, I know well what I say: then said his father, thou canst tel me how many persons be in this chamber and what bee their names: therevpon he reckoned them, and told the names of euery one of them, to the number of 18 or 19 his eyes being close shut vp, as they had bene all the morning before, the neighbours, and some straungers hauing come in after he begunne his fitt, and in the end he said vnto his father, there is now one of your Tenaũts newly come into the chamber, he told him his name, & that he dwelt farre of in the peak, let him come said he, and take me by the hand, and I shal see & be well for this time, & so it came to passe, at which they all marveilled, and asked him whether he remembred what he had said all that long time: and he denied flatlie, that he had spoken any thing at all.

Secondly, Margret Hurdmã, of the age of xiij. yeres, being in a traũce of 3 houres long, and possessed at that time, as it seemed, with a spirit of pride, did most liuely expresse both by wordes and gestures, the proud women of our times: who can not cõtent themselues with any sober or modest

deſt attire, but are euer readie to followe euery newe and diſguiſed faſhion, and yet neuer thinke them ſelues fine enough: wherevpon ſhe ſaide, come on my lad, for ſo ſhee called the ſpirit that ſtoode before her in that likenes, to teach her all the trickes of pride, come on and ſet my partlet on the one ſide as I doe on the other: and as ſhe was a ſetting of it, ſhe ſaid vnto him, thus, my lad, I wil haue a fine ſmock of ſilke, it ſhalbe finer then thine. I will haue a petticote of ſilke, not of redd, but of the beſt ſilke that is: it ſhalbe garded a foote high; it ſhalbe laide on with golde lace; it ſhall haue a french bodie, not of Whalebone, for that is not ſtiffe inough, but of horne, for that will holde it out; it ſhal come low before, to keepe in my bellie: my lad, I will haue a French fardingale, it ſhalbe finer then thine; I will haue it low before and high behinde, & broad on eyther ſide, that I may lay my armes vpon it. My lad, thy gowne is crimſon ſatten, but mine ſhalbe of blacke wrought velvet, it ſhalbe finer thē thine, I will haue my ſleeues ſet out with wire, for ſticks wil breake, and are not ſtiffe inough. I will haue my perwincle ſo fine, finer thē thine, I will haue my cappe of black velvet with a fea-

a feather in it, with ſlewes of gold, and my hayres ſhalbe ſett with pearles, finer then thine. I will haue my partlet ſet with a rebater, and ſtarcht with blew ſtarch, & pinned with a rowe or twoo of pinnes. With this ſhe ſnatched the partlet frō her necke and threw at him, ſaying: Take it thou, for I can not make it ſo fine as thine. I pray thee come and helpe me to ſet it as fine as thine. My ladde, I will have a buſke of Whale-bone, it ſhalbe tyed with two ſilke points, and I will haue a drawen wrought ſtomacher imboſte with golde, & a girdle of golde finer then thine. I will haue my hoſe of orenge colour, this is in requeſt, & my corke ſhoes of redd ſpaniſh leather, finer then thine. I will haue a ſkarfe of red ſilke, with a gold lace about the edge. I will haue a fanne, with a ſilver ſteale and a glaſſe ſett in it, finer then thine. My lad, thou muſt bring me a paire of gloues of the fineſt leather, that may be, with twoo gold laces about the thumbe, and a fringe on the toppe with ſlewes and red ſilke vndernearh, that I may draw them through a gold ringe, or els I will none of them.

My lad, I will haue my baſine and ewer of ſiluer, and my towel of ſilke, finer then thine: I will haue my gelding and ſaddle

and

and furniture fitte, my footstoole also fine and braue, or els I will not ride, I wil haue my cloake and savegarde laide with lace most fine and braue, and finer then thine, and presentlie after this, she saide, I defye thee Satan and thy pride, for this is thy illusion and deceite, I will none of it, and then reverting saide, Iesus blesse me, but remembred nothing that shee had eyther saide or done.

At another time in her fitt shee went to the maides as they were washing of cloathes, and beganne to wash with them, and though they were two lustie women, and she but a yong girle, yet shee washt more for the space of an hower so quicke and so fine, that they could not come neare her.

The 3 is Margret Byron, of whom there be many things worthie to bee obserued; Shee being at Mai. Starkies house about the ende of Ianuary, was for the space of a whole day and a night grievouslie molested & sore frighted with a terrible vision which appeared vnto her lying in bedde, (swelling & tumbling) like a fowle blacke dwarfe, with halfe a face, longe shagged haire, blacke broad handes, & blacke cloven feete; she ever fearing least he came to carrie her away: and when shee began to

pray

pray, he threatned that if she did pray, he would carrie her away: shee was in such a straite, that she knew not what to do, whether to pray or not to pray: yet in the ende shee resolved that shee would pray to the Lord, for her helpe was onely in him, who indeed gaue her strength and courage to call earnestly vnto him, presentlie Sathan remoued and vanished away.

At her mothers house at Salforde, sixe times within 6 weekes Sathan sought to pine her, in not suffering her to eate nor drinke for diuers dayes togither: and if at the earnest request of her friendes shee did offer to drinke, he would cast both her & the drinke downe togither. And againe at other times shee would eate vp all, were it neuer so much: with such snatching and greedines, like a hungrie dogge: all was fish that came to net; she spared nothing, deuouring all that came, and yet still crying that she had nothing: she thought she could haue eaten vp halfe a calfe: and yet after that great abundance of meate and drinke, her bellie seemed as emptie as at the first, so that they all wondered at that which she had eaten, and marveiled also which way it went.

Sometimes also the spirit would appeare vn-

vnto her in the likenes of a great blacke dog, with opē mouth, & the greateſte chaine that euer ſhe ſaw, beeing verie thicke and longe, drawing it after him, wherewith he did croſſe her, and tooke her legges from vnder her; ſhee had little reſt for the ſpace of 6 weekes, eyther day or night: yea manie times when the people ſtood round about her, ſhe was taken ſuddenlie and violentlie caſt headlong ſometimes vnder the bed, ſometimes vnder the cofers, and ſometimes throwen to the barres of the fire, and there laid as if Satan ment to roſt her. When ſhe ſat vpon a ſtoole, he would ſuddenlie throwe her quite backwarde, as if he ment to haue broken her necke.

After this he appeared in the likenes of a big black Cat, with very fearfull broad eyes, which came ſtaring her in the face, rūning by her and about her, and throwing her downe, and leaving her ſenſeles, departed. And about halfe an houre after that ſpot, the ſpirit came like a big Mouſe, leaping vpon her knee, and caſt her down backwarde, as before, her ſences being taken from her; her eyes cloſe ſhutt vp, her tongue pluckt duble into her throte, her mouth open, her chawes ſett, and all her whole body ſtretched out as ſtiffe as iron.

And

And thus she lay many times for the space of an houre as a spectacle very fearfull to beholde.

It was vsuall also with the spirit to come vnto her in the night in the likenes of a blacke man with half a face, which tooke her iust as she was going to bed, & would be sure to picke her backwarde: and shee being recovered and got into her bed, it would come and sit vpon the toppe of her head, holding his 4 fingers vpon her forehead very heavie, holding her very strait, that she could not see nor stirre, yet for all that was her kirchefe and headgeare pulled of, and though they had tyed it vp, and bound it on very fast, yet suddenly in a moment he pluckt all a-sunder, and her hayre that was so fast tyed vp, was broken loose, and brought about her eares, and this was tryed twice or thrice in a night, that when they had done the best they could to keepe it on, yet in the twinke of an eye, it was all vndone, he marred their worke in that point, and they lost all their labour: and ever when he tooke his leaue and departed, his maner was to give her a great thumpe on the hinder part of her heade, insomuch that with those thumpes she felt her head sore a good while after.

She

She at another time, learned 3 verie excellent graces by the apparition & instruction of the spirit: she neuer could read, nor euer heard the before in all her life, as she protested, yet she learned them vppon the suddaine, and did rehearse them all three verie perfectlie, and so it is like she can do till tis day.

About the 10 of Febrn. & at some other times before, she felt (as she thought) some great thing rowle vp & downe in her bellie, like a calfe; it prickt as if the head and nose thereof had bene full of nayles (as she thought) wherwith being sore payned she was compelled to skrike, shee was exceedingly swolne by it, & somtimes it pulled her as she thought in a hundred peeces, it made a loude noyse in her bellie, like that in the bellie of a great trotting horse; it caused her to barke and houle: then it would plumpe downe into her bodie, like a cold long whetstone on her left side, wherevpon the rest of her bodie was benumed with an extreame colde, wherewith she fell a quaking, her teeth also chattering in her head, and if then she offered to warme her self at the fire, she was presently picked backward; after these fitts her breath stanke so ill, that her neighbours

came not neare her for the ſpace of a day and a night, yea it was ſo exceeding noyſome thar after the fitt, ſhe her ſelf could perceiue it & could very hardly endure it.

Further to finiſhe this particular, ſix ſeuerall times in her fits at Clewoth, euery time ſix ſpirits appeared to her: 5 of them very black, fowler then blackmores, marveylous vglie to beholde: theſe ſhe, receiued ſhoueing and thruſting into her great nayles to torment her (as ſhee thought) wringing and bending of her, as if they would breake her backe bone: the other ſpirite was in her eyes, like a very faire litle childe, ſo fine and comely as ever might be ſeen, (which ſhe ſaid) ſat euer next her, & would ſay vnto her, feare not, for thou ſhalt haue no harme: and for that it was ſo amiable, ſhe was euer catching & coueting to take it, but her hand being ſtayed by ſome that ſtood by, ſtraight ſhe was ſorer troubled, and fell a toſſing and tumbling, as at other times.

Ellen Holland and Ellinor Hurdman, the one being 10, the other 12 yeares of age, were both of them (by the malice of Satan) kept faſting for the ſpace of 3 dayes and 3 nights, for ſo long time they remayned ſenceles, & did neither eat nor drink

any

any thing : wherein hee laboured they might both of them periſh and pine away. And when the third night was come, Eilen Hollande called for the houre glaſſe, and tolde them, ſhee muſt now haue a fitt, and muſt not come out of it for the ſpace of foure houres, ſhee then called for a diſtaffe and a ſpindle, & bad them turne the glaſſe, for ſhee would ſpinne an houre and a halfe of that time. And though ſhee was but a child, & as it were but beginning to learne to ſpinne, yet ſhe did it at that time ſo finelie & with ſuch expedition, as was thought impoſſible for a verie skilful woman to do the like, and gaue ouer iuſt at the ende of the appointed time, and then had ſhe moſt cruell and terrible fittes, till the glaſſe had runne out the reſt of the time, and reverted iuſt at the foure houres end, as before ſhee had ſaid : but what ſhee had ſaid or done in all this time, that ſhe remembred not.

Likewiſe Ellinor Hurdman tolde them that ſhe muſt haue a fit of 3 houres longe, ſhee called for the houre glaſſe, bad them turne it and marke it well, ſhee preſentlie with the turning of the glaſſe fell into a traunce, her eyes cloſe ſhut vp, and her face turned quite from the glaſſe, the other way : Notwithſtanding ſhee meaſured the

time moſt diſtinctly as the glaſſe did runne deviding the houre into 4 quarters, by very iuſt & equall proportions, according as it was moſt duelie obſerued, ſhe reckonod it her ſelfe, and named euery quarter as it had runne out: ſaying thus, a quarter runne, half houre runne, 3 quarters runne, and the fourth time, turne the glaſſe: euen iuſt when it had runne out; and ſo did ſhe the ſecond time and miſſed not; and the 3 likewiſe till it was out, and then iuſt with the very time ſhe reverted and ſaide, Ieſus bleſſe me, & ſo was reſtored for that tyme. Among all the ſtrange thinges acted by them, there was none better marked then this, it was done in the day, in the preſence of many witneſſes, M. Starkie himſelf the man that did chieflie obſerue it, and to the beſt ayme he could giue, the quarters were moſt equally deuided, and the proportion moſt iuſt in the meaſure: At which they all marueiled greatly, and could not chuſe but impute this ſupernaturall skill to the work of Satan, who aſwell by his ſtraung and cunning ſuggeſtions, as by other enforced ſignes, doth make it evident, that that working ſubiect is in his power, and poſſeſſion.

Furthermore Iohn Starkie, Anne Starkie

kie, Ellen Holland, and Ellinor Hurdman, these 4 had the vse of their legges taken from them, for the space of 7 houres, and being so, all that time, they went vpō their hands and their knees onely, out of one chamber into an other, and that as fast, as if they had had the vse of their feete: they could rest in no place, but went without ceasing all that while, they could leape vp from the flore to the bed, & down frō the bed to the flore, hopping so vp and downe, as lightlie, like froggs, and so continued for the space of 7 houres, at the least.

This time being out, they were restored to the vse of their feete, but yet still remained both senceleſſe & speachles, in which case they all 4 went into the garden, and forthwith euery one of them gathered one leafe of euery kinde of hearbe that grew therein, from the greatest to the least, they missed not one euen to the very grasse: which being done, they came againe into the house, and then they went first into the hall, then into the parlour, and then into every chamber in the house, excepting one which was lockt, & there in the windowes of these seuerall rowmes, euery one of them laid downe one leaf, of the same kind of hearbe which they had ga-

thered, for looke where any one of them did lay downe one, there all the reſt would lay downe another of the ſame ſort, and no moe nor no other.

Now marke the ſtraungnes of this acte, which howſoeuer it ſeeme in it ſelf to be but a trifle, yet in the trial of it, it wil proue a wonder, if the circumſtances bee duely cõſidered: for firſt, the herbes were many, ſeeing the garden is large. Secondly, the rowmes were many, for it is a gentlemans houſe, and it is of good receipte. Thirdly, they were 4, and they were but children, the eldeſt was not aboue 12 yeares olde, & yet that they ſhould gather of euery ſort, one leafe only and no more. Fourthly, that the hearbes being mingled altogether in their hands, yet that euery one did moſt quicklie, & readilie, without any ſearching at all, lay down the right hearbe, ſo that in euery place there where euer 4 iuſt of one and the ſame kind. Laſtly, and that which is the chiefeſt of all, that all this (as was duely obſerued) was done and diſpatched within leſſe then one houre, in ſo diuers rowmes and ſundry places, yea vpon the ſtayres and threſholds of theſe rowmes, & in their own chamber where they lay theſelues, not only in euery window, but a-

gainſt

gainſt euery ſtaunch of the windowe were theſe herbes thus laid downe in maner aforeſaid.

This was ſearched & found to be thus ſpeedly and exactly done, as is abouesaid, which thing if it ſhould haue bene performed by other 4 of good diſcretion, the circumſtances conſidered, it would haue bin the work of a whole day, & yet not ſo excellently performed, as it was by theſe: which when they did it, were all out of their right mindes, not knowing at all what they did, in ſo much that when they came out of their traunce, they merveiled where they had bene, & could not be perſwaded that they had done this ſtraunge thinge, though it was ſhewed vnto them by plaine demonſtration.

Theſe 4 alſo in another traunce, did daunce ſo finely, as if they had come out of the dauncing ſchole, one of the yongeſt playing with her mouth as cunningly for the preſent, as if ſhe had bene a minſtrell.

It was further obſerued, that in thoſe times when theſe were ſo ſubiect to haue their fits very often and very thicke, and to be ſore vexed, and tormented, yet for all that if they went to cardes or othe games they were not troubled at all, during the

whole time of their playing and gaming and though they went from home being requested to a gentlemans house to heare a play, yet all that while, they were not troubled, nor one whitte disquieted, but contrariwise if either scriptures were read, or prayers vsed for them, or exhortations applyed vnto them, then ordinarily they fell into their fitts, and were very fearfully tormented. Insomuch that for the space of two yares or there-abouts, till they were deliuered, they neuer came to the church, only for feare to increase their torments.

Moreouer the 4 yongest girles being possest with scorning spirites in the day of their dispossession, and in the time of the last sermon did shew the same: for when the word was applied vnto them, shewing what straunge things Satan worketh in the children of disobedience, as grining and gnashing of teeth, staring with their eyes, making mowes with their lips, thrusting out their tōgues, & drawing their mouths awrye very vgly, &c. It is most certaine that as these particulars were named, one after another, so they all foure did in actiō answere the word of God which was spoken, shewing such vnsemely gestures, fearfull lookes, & vglie coūtenances in euery par-

particular, and in the very same instant & point of time when they were named. And though not one of them did see what another did, yet for all that, they did iumpe so right in shewing and setting out these vnseemly signes, as that it could verie hardly bee discerned, which of them all 4 was first or last in performing of the same. Further such was the great and extraordinary strength that were in these 4 in the time of their fitts, that though some of thē were but of the age of x or xj yeares, yet two or three strōg men, could hardly hold one of them.

And that these two yongest and some of the rest, though they were vnlearnd and neuer went to schole, yet in their fitts they were able to make answer to latin questions propounded vnto them, so truely and readily, as if they had soundly vnderstood them. And herein were they tried sundry times. And if now they should be examined therein, they can neither answer nor vnderstande one worde.

There be also many other very strange things acted by euery one of these in particular, which if they should be set downe euery one, they would fill a large volume, for brevities sake therfore the most things

be

be omitted. And this alſo is moſt certaine, that very many ſtraunge thinges, and as wonderfull as anie that heere haue bene ſpoken of, were loſt, and let ſlippe for want of heede, and good obſervation.

Nowe it is worthie to bee marked, that though theſe poſſeſſed perſons, had euery one, ſome thinges peculiar to them ſelues which none of the reſt did ſhew, and that ſo rare & ſtraunge, that all the people were forced to confeſſe it was the werke of an euill ſpirite within them: ſo had they alſo many thinges in cõmon one with another, and were in their fittes for the moſt parte handled alike.

1 They had all and euery one of them very ſtraunge viſions, and fearfull apparitions, wherevpon they would ſay: looke where Satan is: looke where Beelzebub is: looke where Lucifer is: looke where a great blacke dogge is, with a firebrand in his mouth: ſee how Satan runneth at me with a ſpeare in his hande to ſticke mee to the hart, but God will defend me.

2 They had euery one of them two ſpirits at the leaſt, one to torment them inwardly, with all the torments of hell, as it were, for the preſent, and eyther one or more to ſtand before their faces, moſt vgly

and

and terrible to beholde, to driue them into all feare and astonishment.

3 They heard verie hideous and fearfull voices of the spirits sundrie times, and did make marveillous aunsweres backe againe vnto them verie directlie and stranglie.

4 They were in their fittes ordinarilie holden in that captiuitie & bondage, that for an houre, two, or three, & longer time they should neither see nor heare nor tast, nor feele nothing but the Divells, they imploying them whollie for them selues, vexing and tormenting them so extreamlie, as that for the present they could feele no other paine or torture that could bee offered vnto them; no not though you should plucke an eare from the head, or an arme from the bodie.

5 They all of them were taken suddenlie, with a verie fearfull schriking, and a marveilous straunge howling and showting, making a noise, as it were to call on, and to waken one another, that so the spirites being raised vpp, might goe to their worke, and proceed to torment their subiectes according to their custome; when one beganne, they all followed after in order, observing time and tune, as it had bin

the

the ringing of vij. Bells, and ſuch was the ſtraungnes of theſe voyces, that the vttering and framing of them, exceeded all cunning invention, or the skill of anie counterfaite imitation, and the effect alſo ſo fearfull, that it was both terrible and troubleſome to the whole Countrie, and wrought a wonderfull aſtoniſhment in all that heard it.

6 Further they all of them had their bodies ſwolne to a wonderfull huge bignes, and almoſt incredible, if there had not bin many eye-witneſſes vnto it.

7 They had alſo a marveilous ſore heaving and lifting, as if their heartes would burſt, ſo that with violent ſtrayning of thē ſelues, ſome of them vomited much bloud many times.

8 They had their faces diſſigured, and turned towardes their backes, a fearfull thruſting out of their tougues with a moſt vglie diſtorting of their mouthes, being drawen vp, as it were vnto their eares.

9 They were all of them verie fierce, offering violence both to them ſelves and others, wherein alſo they ſhewed verie great and extraordinarie ſtrength.

10 They blaſphemed God, and the Bible; they reviled the Preachers; rayled vpon

pon such as feared God; scorned all holy prayers, & wholesome exhortations, whiche being offered and applied vnto them, they euer became much worse.

11 They for the most part delighted in filthie & vnsavorie speaches, verie aggreable to the nature of that vncleane spirite which then dwelled within them; in so much as in the verie sermon time, when such vnseemelie behauiour was spoken against, the evill spirit wrought most maliciously and spitefullie against the grace of God, and forced one of them (though she was a maide) to vtter opēlie in the hearing of the people, such filthie vncleanes, as is not to be named.

12 The most of them were both blinde, deafe, and dumbe, for diuers dayes togither.

13 They were out of their right mindes, without the vse of the sences, especiallie voyde of feeling; as much sence in a stock as in one of them: or as possible in a manner to quicken a dead man, as to alter or chaunge them in their traunces, or fittes, in any thing that they eyther said or did.

14 They were kept fasting a long time, and diuers of them for the space of three dayes and 3 nightes, did neither eate, nor drinke

drinke anie thing, Satan purposing thereby to procure their pining away.

15 They in their fitts had diuers partes and members of their bodies so stiffe and stretched out, as were inflexible, or verie hard to be bended.

16 They shewed very great and extraordinarie knowledge, as may appeare by the strange things said and done by them, according to that which we haue alreadie set downe in the particulars.

17 They all in the ende of euerie fit, said euer thus *IESVS bleſſe me*, yea though they had 40 or a 100 fittes in one day, as it is certaine some of them had, yet they neuer missed to saye thus, but as sure as they had a fitt, whether it were short, or long, so sure it was, that it should bee ended, with this prayer, *IESVS bleſſe me*, this was euer a sure signe, that they were restored to the vse of their sences for that time, which neuer failed.

18 They euer after their fits, were as wel as might be, an felt verie little or no hurt at all; although they had bene neuer so sore tormented immediatlie before.

Now this harmonie & consent in signes and actions, both for the matter & maner of strange handling of all these in their seuerall

nerall fits, doth make it euident, that they were all really and corporally possessed.

Notwithstanding that is true, which is obiected, namely, that sundry of these signes, may be in one that is not possessed: for one may see very fearfull sights, and straung apparitions, and may be haunted with evil spirits, & driuen into great feares and frights, and yet not be possessed.

Another may be both lame and blind, and dumbe and deafe.

The third may bee very fierce, offering violence, both to themselues ond others.

The fourth may gnash and fome, and stare with his eyes, and fall downe fearfullie, and suddenly, & lye as if he were dead.

And so it may be said of diuers others, whiche may manie other wayes bee verie strangly handled, and yet not one of them truely possessed.

The reason is because that when sundry of these signes, are seuered from the rest, and goe alone by them selues, or ells are found but two or three, or some few together, then such signes may arise, as effects from some other workinge cause in the subiect, or from the immediate hande of God, or some other way.

But when all these signes shall concurre and

and meete together in one man, or the moſt of theſe, being ioyned with any one acte aboue the power of nature, as ſupernaturall knowledge, and extraordinarie ſtrength, or anie ſuch impoſſible worke, then if it ſhalbe examined, eyther according to the ſcriptures, or hiſtories, or reaſon it ſelfe, it will prooue a verie ſounde and corporall poſſeſſion: And ſo by conſequence the great varietie of ſtrange ſignes and ſupernaturall actes, performed by theſe 7. and ſhewed aſwell in everie particular, as in thoſe thinges which they had in common one with another, doth eaſilie conclude a verie true and ſound poſſeſſion.

The third

The third part.

The 3 part of this discourse cõcernes our comming to Mai. Starkies house, & the occasiõn thereof, how we came to haue to deale with these 7 persons; our entrance into, and our whole cariage in that action; whiche beeing truelie sett downe, may serue to discharge vs of those grievous calumniations cõtayned in the discouerie: charging vpõ vs both the names and practize of cousiners, juglers, exorcistes, impostors, &c.

FIRST then the continuance of these troubles in Mai. Starkies house: the remembrance of Doct. Dees coũsell, to send for some Preachers: the imprisoning of Edmond the Witch in Lancaster layle: the hearing of the Boy of Burton, who being strangelie afflicted, receyued helpe & deliuerance by M. Darrells advise: vpõ these occasions, Mr. Starkie sent for M. Darrell 3 seuerall times before he came, hee euer imparted the newes vnto the brethren as it came to his hand, becaus he would attempt nothing in those cases without very

good aduiſement, and lawfull conſent. In the end it was concluded, that hee ſhould goe: and thought fit, that I alſo ſhould go with him, as a companion in the iourney, and a witnes to all his proceedings according to his owne requeſt.

This being done, M. Darr: wrote his letter to M. Starkie, wherin he promiſed that after ſome preſent and important buſines was diſpatched, he would come, and viſite him; deſiring with all, the aſſiſtance of ſome faithful Miniſters about M. Starkie, eſpecially his Paſtour to ioyne with vs.

This letter M. Starkie reade in the preſence of Iohn Starkie his ſonne, and ſome other: after which time, he, the ſaid Iohn, had no fit at all, till the day of our cõming thither; the reſt had ſome little fitts, but not ſo grieuous as before: in which fits they would ſay to the ſpirit, thou naughti lad, thou makeſt vs ſicke, for thou knowest the Preachers will come ſhortlie.

So we hauing prepared our ſelues for this iourney, at the time appointed, went towards Lancaſhire, where we neuer came in our liues before. And vpon Wedneſday the xvj^th^ of March, about one of the clock wee came to Mai. Starkies houſe at Cleworth, who hearing that wee were come,

Miſtres

Mistres Starkie with Iohn Star. her sonne, and Ann her daughter with some other of the family came forth to meete vs, and entertayned vs with great love, and brought vs into the hall, where we found M. Star. himselfe, being then ready to rise from dinner, who after our welcome to him, commanded the meate to be brought againe, and desired vs to sitt downe at table, and so we did: Presently after prayfing of God, wee began to enquire of M. Starkie, the state of his family, and asked him how they did: He answered, he thanked God, they were all much better then they had bene, but specially Iohn Starkie had bene well for a fortnight together, and not so much as once troubled, and Anne Star. his daughter had bin well divers dayes before our comming, without any fitt at all, and the rest began to mend now since Edmond the witch was hanged; And both hee and his wife doubted not, but that they should now doe well. Which when wee hearde, wee suspected greatly Satans lurking in them: And desired to see those that were still troubled, which were especially three, who were all in the kitchin quiet; he called for them to come vp into the hall, and so they came: first the eldest came neare

vnto the table and made lowe courteſie, & preſenthe in a moment was trowen into a chayre, about 3 yardes diſtant from the place where ſhe ſtoode, where ſhee reared backward in the chaire as though ſhe had ben a ſleepe, her body ſtretched out to the furtheſt, and as ſtife as yron: This beeing done, in comes the ſeconde, who did like the firſt, and was ſuddenly caſt to a table ſide, iuſt oppoſite againſt the other: Afterwarde comes in the laſt, with both her handes cloſed to her face, & vttered theſe wordes, I am come to counſayle before I be called, and ſtraight way while the word was in her mouth, ſhe was ſtricken backward to the forme-ſide, where ſhee ſatt all agaſte like the reſt. Herevpon we aroſe fro the table, beeing much amaſed at the ſtrangnes of the ſight, and came to behold them, and ſee in what maner they were viſited. And after we had vewed them well, within a quarter of an houre, they al ſtood vp. And amog many odd pleaſant, though vnvſuall ſpeaches, one of theſe three ſpake thus merily (about the hanging of Hartley the witch, who was newlie executed) doe they think that they could hange the Devill: I whiſh no, they might hange Edmod, but they could not hange the Devill, for they

chey were two, Edmond and the Devill. And after they began to raile and revile and to ſtrike both with handes and with feete, and could not be ruled till they were remoued into an vpper chamber, where they continued together, talking one to another, mocking and ſcorning ſuch as held them downe, or ſaid, or did any good vno them: And ſo they remayned, depriued of the right vſe of their ſences, both ſpeaking, and doing much evill, and yet vtterly ignorant and ſenceles in all that paſſed from them, ſo continuing from that houre being 2 a clock on the Wedneſday till 6 at night vpon Thurſday, when it pleaſed God to deliuer them and the reſt.

Then we went into the garden, conſulting with M. Starkie, what was beſt to bee done. We agreed vpon this courſe, namely to take in hand the exerciſe of faſting and prayer the next day, conſidering with our ſelues where wee might haue ſome other Godly Preacher to ioyne with vs, to aſſiſt vs in that worke, We thought of diuerſe, but in the end we made choyſe of one M. Dickoms, the miniſter at Leigh, which is the Pariſh Church to M. Starkie. Whereupon we ſent for him.

In the meane time we purpoſed to pre-

pare the whole familie againſt the next day, to make them all as fit as we could for that holy worke: and chieflie that they might bee truely humbled, and ſanctified, that ſo wee might with the more courage and comfort ioyne with them the next day in faſting and prayer. But when ſome of the poſſeſſed were tried, they were found vncapable of all good counſayle & inſtruction, and yet had abilitie and power to reſiſt & ſcorne the ſame. After ſome halfe houre ſpent this way with ſome of thē, the reſt of the poſſeſſed were all come into the chamber: Margret Byrom was newly come from Mancheſter, whom Ma. Starkie had cauſed to be ſent for, and Iane Aſhton alſo, which before our comming was not much ſuſpected: Yet ſhee that day in the morning had her belly ſwelled as bigge as a womā with childe, & ſtraight vpon our comming, a ſtraunge skriking and howling, as the reſt had. So Mai. Starkie holding his ſonne Iohn, and Miſtreſſe Starkie her daughter Anna faſt in their armes, Ma. Darrell began to exhort them. Preſentlie Iohn Starkie and Anne, cryed out mightilie, with ſuch outrageous roaring and belling, that they could not of a

Though ye Divel had diſſembled & hid himſelf in both theſe, yet nowe the word findeth him out, & he can diſſemble no lōger, but muſt needes ſhew himſelfe.

long

long time be restreyned. And Iohn Starkie being cast and holden downe vppon a bedd, was most fearfullie tormented, and so payned in his stomacke, and pulled in his belly, heaving & lifting, as if his heart would burst, wherevpon hee shedd manie bitter teares, and so continued, sometimes crying out exceeding loude, and sometimes in these tormeting fits, to the great griefe of the beholders. And while we laboured to comfort them by exhortations, we were scorned by the first three that lay by vpon beddes in euery good worde that we spake, and they would take it into their mouthes, and mocke it: When we called for the Bible, they fell a laughing at it, and sayde, reach them the *Bibble bable*, *bibble babbell*, it went so round in their mouthes from one to another, and continued with manie other scorninges and filthie speaches, that we could not bereaue them of it. Therevpon we purposed to leaue them for a while, exhorting againe Iohn Starkie to trust in the Lorde; to bee patient in that affliction; to pray to God, and desired him to say after vs, the Lordes prayer: but he was the more tormented a great deale, and not a worde could he speake, but that scorner that lay next him, saide after vs,

nicknaming euery worde in the Lordes prayer, ſo farre as we went in it. For when we perceaued ſuch horrible blaſphemie, we durſt not proceede but gaue ouer or euer we came to the end, being exceedinglie grieued, that they had deſpiſed ſuch holy thinges as dogges and ſwine, that would if they could haue turned againe, and all to rent vs: wherevpon we were forced to giue place to the Devill, who indeed at this time beſtirred him ſelfe, working mightilie in all the poſſeſſed ſuch tormēts and ſuch troubles, with ſuch outrageous ſpite and contempte, as I am perſwaded was ſeldome or neuer ſeene the like, and all of purpoſe to diſcourage vs in that ſkirmiſh, and to driue vs out of the fielde, and if it were poſſible not to dale to ſett vpon him any more.

The trueth is, we were greatly diſcouraged at that time, not knowing wel what to doe: we left them ſo, and went into a garden tor efreſh our ſelues, hauing ſpent a good while with them, it grewe towarde ſupper time; we were requeſted to come in, and being ſet at ſupper, Mai. Dickoms (whom we had ſent for) came in. We told him what ſtraunge things had fallen out, ſince our comming thither, & of our pur-

poſe

poſe to faſt and pray with the familie, if he would ioyne with vs; which thing he was verie readie to doe. And hauing purpoſed alſo to prepare the familie therevnto, wee went about it. Hauing the whole familie togeather, and diuerſe honeſt neighbours for the holding and tending of the poſſeſſed, we made entrance into the preparatiõ, which was by way of exhortation. Wee found thé verie lowde, froward & rough to deale withall, that we could hardlie get any audience: but perceaving the great malice & ſpite of the Deuill, that wrought againſt vs, labouring violentlie to trouble vs, that we might againe giue ouer the worke as wee had done before, Wee were prouoked in this reſpect with great zeale to pray againſt him, & with all the deſires of our ſoules, to intreate the Lorde to put the Deuill to ſilence, and that hee would charge, and commaund the evill ſpirites to holde their peace; that ſo wee might both haue good audience in praying and ſpeaking the Worde, and alſo performe all other dueties profitably without lette: which came to paſſe accordingly, for wee found the Lorde neare and readie to heare vs: who preſentlie ſhewed his power in commaunding Satan to ſilence, and to be ſtill,

The prayer was not ſooner made but preſently they held their peace euery one, prayſed be God.

ſtill, and they obeyed him, for there fo
lowed a great calme. So we went forwa
performing that ſeruice which remayne
with much comfort. This preparation b
ing finiſhed, by this time it drewe towa
midnight, wee went all to bedde, to ta
ſome reſt, that being thereby refreſhed,
might bee the better able to performe
greater ſeruice the next day, which we h
bound our ſelues vnto; being exceeding
encouraged to ſet vpon it with ſure ho
of the victorie, in that the Lord had p
the pawne and pledg of it into our han
ouer night, giuing vs ſuch plaine exp
rience both of his preſence & of his pow
by reaſon wherof our faith gathered gr
ſtrength, that ſeeing the Lord had bleſ
our endevour thus far in the entrance a
giuen vs ſuch good ſucceſſe in the prep
ration, that he would not faile to be p
ſent with vs in the bataille it ſelfe, to ſh
his power, and to worke with vs till w
had troden Satan vnder our feete. Ther
fore when the morning came, we prepar
our ſelues after the beſt maner we coul
that that holy exerciſe of faſting & pray
might be performed both by our ſelves
all that ſhould ioyne with vs therein, w
moſt fruite, that wee might attaine to
mal

marke that we ſett before vs: namely, the confounding of Satan and the full deliuerance of the poſſeſſed. There was alſo great preparation in the familie to ſett all things in good order, that we might not be troubled in the work. And having a faire large parlour alreadie trimmed, they brought in thither certaine beds or couches, vppon which they laide the 7 ſicke poſſeſſed perſons. All this while the honeſt neighbours neare about, coming in, the roome filled apace, ſome holding and tending the ſicke poſſeſſed, & ſome ſitting by. It being now about 7 a clocke, and all things made readie, the parties being ſtill troubled, their torments ſtil increaſing, & their fits doubling vpon them, ſomtimes either howling or crying, or els lifting, heaving, or vomitting, or els ſcorning, or rayling, or caſt into a traunce, which was euer at the ende of their fits, being as a breathing time to refreſh them by, and then too it againe. The ſight and hearing of theſe thinges was ſo wonderfull that a man can not poſſiblie come neere it in deſcribing of it, neither was euer ſuch a thing ſeene in our dayes, nor in the dayes of our fathers, ſuch a number in one place, lying in ſuch a featfull maner ſo miſerably vexed by the Devill.

vill. We could not chuſe but be exceedin
ly affected with great ſorrow and grie
compaſſion of their miſeries, which pr
voked vs to offer vppe our prayers wi
ſtrong crying & teares vnto God that w
able to heare, and to ſaue vs from th
which we feared.

Wee then with ſuch reuerence as w
meete, beganne the exerciſe of humbli
our ſoules vnto God, in the mediation
Ieſus Chriſt, and by the direction of t
holy Ghoſt proceeded in the worke till
was finiſhed. In which proceeding it is
to obſerue diverſe ſtrang eventes whic
happened. For the poſſeſſed being of diue
kinds, we had more adoe with them: for
of thē were poſſeſſed with skorning ſpirit
& quite bereaued of the right vſe of the
ſences, with whom wee were much mo
troubled then with the other three whi
were euer very ſober, though they we
very ſore tormented. And yet through th
great mercy of God, after we had made
entrance, God bridled the rage of Satā
and ſo reſtrained his fury, that after h
had made his flouriſh in the beginning
and ſhewed his power (as then he will d
the worſt hee can) it pleaſed God as be
fore in our preparation ouer-night,

the exercise it self, where many were assembled together, to make them all quiet, and to keepe them all in such order, that from 7 a clocke in the morning till 3 a clock in the afternoone, we went forward without any great interruption, saue that now and then, some of them had some sudden fit for the space of halfe a quarter of an houre, which being ended, we went on stil perceauing the Lord working with vs, giuing vs oftentimes sundry signes of the victory, whereby we were much encouraged. For in the first Sermon whilest Master Dickoms was preaching, Margret Hurdman, who was the principall and chief of the scorners, was plainely heard, both by some of the Preachers & of the people, to vtter these words oftentimes: *I must be gone, I must be gone, whether shall I goe? whether shall I goe? I will not dye, I will not dye,* repeating ouer againe & againe the same thing halfe a dozen times at the least, in a verie lowe voice and in the tune of singing. After this there appeared no great distraction till three of the clocke in the afternoone: and toward the end of my sermon (as the Discouerer hath reveyled) when the abouenamed Margret Hurdman was heard againe to vtter these wordes, *I can-*

not

not tarie: I cannot tarie: I am too hoote: I am too hoote: let me goe: let me goe. Whi wordes gaue vs this comfort, that Satha would not long keepe his holde, he was heated by fasting and prayer, and by t word of God so zealously and powerfully applyed, as if fyer were put into his ho to burne him out: for herevpon before t sermon was or could be ended, shee wi all the rest brake out into exceeding lou cryes, all seaven roaring, & belling in suc extreame and fearfull manner that the troubled vs al, being so violent and outra gious that they had much adoe to be hid den. For Satan then being ready to depar did first vexe all the vaynes of their harts and did so torment them, that they we forced to lay about them with both hand and feete, to pull their hayre, and to re their clothes, to knocke their heads, an to strike themselues, crying out with ope mouthes, & roaring as if they were madd Then was there such struggling & striuin betweene vs and those seaven Devills, cry ing out so loude with such violence an extention of voyce, labouring who shou be loudest, till our voyces were spent, an no strength almost left in vs. This battayl continued verie neare the space of tw

houre

houres, till we were exceedinglie weakened with longe and loude crying vp vnto heauen, but it pleased God to weaken Satans power much more, and to tread the euill spirits vnder our feete. And thus much may serue to shew, what beginning we made into this worke, and howe wee proceeded therein, and that our whole course & cariadge held in this cause thus farre may cleare vs, that we neither sought worke, nor set our selues to work, though we be charged so to doe, by this Discoverie, as may appeare by the scope of the whole last chapter of the first booke: neither in dealing with these straunge afflictions, haue we vsed eyther delusions, iuglings, exorcismes, or any such vayne and ridiculous fooleries as they haue detected in the popish Priestes, nor yet any such lightnes as should be cõdemned by men that meddle with matters of such moment.

The fourth

The fourth part.

NOw, it followeth in the fourth plac to describe briefly the meanes a maner of the dispossession of these 7 pe sons, that so it may appeare that Mai. Da rell was neither the only, nor yet the prin cipal agent therein; contrarie to that whic the Discoverer doeth falsly report of him Chap. 1. pag. 2. namelie, *That though h had gloried in 2 exploites, yet his name w not so famous, till he had dispossessed 7 pe sons in Maister Starkies house, at one cla* And for proofe heereof they alleadge th storie of the boy of *Burton*, in the endeu which booke, it is thus written viz. *Shor lie you shall haue the true storie come from of those 7 in Lancashire, that were possess sed with vncleane spirites, and all 7 delive red at one time by this man.* And the mor to confirme this, they alleadge Mai. Dar rels owne testimonie, in his answere to th 6 artic. of his exam. (quoted in the marg thereupon inferring thus: *By this man, meaning Mai. Darrell, as he himselfe hath confessed:* I will therefore first sett down the trueth concerning their deliuerance,

and

and after proue that Mai. Darrell is made the principall in this action by this Discouerer, but vnder a pretence onely, and for a further fetch.

For the truth first you haue heard alreadie, that we were three Preachers that exercised that day, of whom I was the last; & indeed in the latter end of my sermon (as the *Discouerer hath reveyled*) they grewe to be so strong, that they could verie hardlie be holden downe vppon their beddes, though they had lyen before reasonablie quiet.

But chieflie one of them namely Iane Ashton, being both the strongest & worst of all the rest, was also more violentlie vexed, having her fittes so sore and so thick, that we feared, she would either haue fainted and fallen downe, orells haue yeelded vnto Sathan, who laboured mightilie to make her workeable to his purpose: wherevpon Mai. Darrell and Mai. Dickoms the other Preacher that ioyned with vs, being much affected with her miserie, as by force of her fittes she was violentlie caried aside from the rest, they two attended vpon her, striving with all their power to vpholde & strengthen her.

In the meane time the other 6 being sore

tormented, and ſtrugling with thoſe th
kept them, were got from them, and b
ing tumbled frō their pallets to the flo
and neare to the fire ſide, where by t
good providence of God, I was brough
euen into the middeſt of them: and the
being aſſiſted with the prayer of their p
rents and the people, we earneſtlie entre
ted the Lorde for them, with ſtronge a
mightie cryes: And it pleaſed God to hea
vs at that inſtant for thoſe 6. who were
vpon a ſuddaine ſtraungelie and fearfull
caſt downe before vs, where they lay all
along one by another, altogeather fenc
les, their bodies ſtiffe and ſtretched out,
if they had bene ſtarke dead, for the ſpa
of halfe a quarter of an houre.

In which time, Mai. Dickoms came
me, and ſaw all of them, laide as dead, a
how they roſe vp agayne one after an
ther, in order as they fell, acknowledgi
that they were freed from the euill ſpir
and that he was departed from them.

Wherevpon euerie one of them ſelu
with great ioy and gladnes of heart, ga
thankes to God for that benefite.

All this while Mai. Darr. was with t
other mayde ſtanding at a great windo
in another part of the parlour, which w
bo

both long and large, ſo that hee neither ſawe, nor heard, of the deliuerãce of theſe 6. he neither knewe, when they were caſt downe, nor when they roſe vpp, nor once ſuſpected any ſuch thinge, vntill ſuch time as they being perfectlie reſtored, ſtoode vpon their feete, leaping and daunſing & prayſing God: when alſo we were all filled with exceeding ioy, which was teſtified by ſhowting and clapping of handes, ſo that the earth range with the prayſes of God, and the whole houſe was filled with the ſounde thereof.

Now the diligent obſerving of the ſtate and condition of theſe 6 perſons in one houre, what violent paſſions, & extreame outrage they were in for the beginning of the houre, driuen and drawen to crye and roare with all madnes and furie, and to do they knew not what. And then ſecondlie in the laſt part of the houre, to bee quite chaunged into another condition, caried as it were with all force and violence into other contrarie extremities of vnſpeakeable ande xceſſiue ioyes, the beſt way: to be ſo ſuddenlie brought from the bondage and torture of Satan, into the glorious libertie of the ſonnes & daughters of God. By theſe ſignes and ſuddayne chaunge, it

is moſt evident, that the firſt eſtate is ſo manifeſt the worke of Satan, & the 2 ſo cleared to be the worke of God, that it cannot poſſiblie be the worke of fleſh and bloud, neither could it bee counterfayted by anie man. For I am perſwaded that if 6 of the cunningeſt wittes that be in the worlde, ſhould ioyne their heads togither to make ſuch another worke: yet they could not deceyue the ſences of ſuch men, as had ſeene by experience, and had made ſome triall of theſe ſtraunge and great workes, for they could quicklie diſcerne, their cloſe iugling and ſleightie conveyance to be but deluſions & hipocriſie, & ſo would their wickednes be manifeſted to all men.

By this it may appeare that Ma. Darrel was not the principall or chiefe Actour in their diſpoſſeſſion, neither can he in deed be ſo accounted, ſeeing that at the very time whiles we were crying vnto the Lord for theſe 6: hee was ſeparated to another worke, and buſilie imployed another way, namelie, inſtructing, comfortinge, and ſtrengthening the Maide, who remayned all this while miſerablie vexed by the Devill.

Wherevpon at our being there he complayned vnto mee concerning the diſpoſſeſſi-

session of these 6, & tolde me that he sawe neuer a one of them when they were deliuered, which he saide grieued him exceedinglie.

After this also I confesse that to be true which the discouerer hath disclosed book 1.chap.10.pag.56. namelie, that I tooke all these 6 vnto me, and exhorted them to continue in the feare of God: telling them that Satan would seeke to enter into them againe, whom I admonished to resist by faith and prayer, and by putting on all the whole armour of God, incouraging them by all meanes to stande faste, saying thus vnto them: If you doe manfullie resist, no doubt but you shall see that Sathan will flie, not being able to doe you any harme. And as they regarded well this counsell, so it pleased God to blesse it accordinglie, for he gaue them such strength and courage, though fiue of them were but children, that they did most stronglie resist him, so that though his assautes were vsually verie fierce and importunate for the present, yet could he not prevaile with the least to yeelde vnto him. And so hitherto they haue all 6 bene preserued both safe and sounde, without anie further molestation, to the great praise and glorie of God.

Now whiles I was thus imployed about those 6. Mai. Darrell tooke great payne with the Maid, hoping still that she would haue bene dispossessed that night also, but it came not so to passe. Whereuppon thorough the deceitfulnes of Satan, who had drawen her to dissemble, and brought her to an impudent outfacing of the truth, we were driuē to giue ouer for that time, purposing in the morning to renewe the exercise of fasting and prayer in the behalfe of that maide onlie: which when we had entred into, she was sorer vexed and tormented then euer she was before, till it was about noone or one of the clocke, about which time, shee also through the great mercie of God, receiued helpe and deliuerance.

For when we had all three in order performed this duetie of prayer, shee hauing wrought vs all one after another till we were wearie, the last time as it came to my course I having continued some time, desired another to take my rowme: which when the maide hearde, shee suddenlie caught me by the hande, held me fast, and saide vnto me: Nay for Gods sake leaue me not yet, sticke to it a litle longer, & you shall see he will departe shortlie.

Here

Herevpon receyuing this good incouragement, I continued ſtill, and with the ioynt aſſiſtãce of the reſt, we earneſtly entreated the Lord for her, ſo it was not long before ſhe was caſt into a traunce, lying as if ſhe had bene faſt a ſleepe, anon ſhe burſt out into weeping that the teares trickled downe her cheekes apace in a verie extraordinarie maner; after which ſhe preſentlie roſe vp, and thanked God that the evill ſpirit was departed from her.

She alſo being violentlie aſſaulted by the Devill, reſiſted mãfully, as the reſt did, and likewiſe prevayled, and ſo was by the mercie of God preſerued, during all the time ſhe was in her miſtres houſe, but afterward ſhe departed thence, and dwelt with her Vncle, a papiſt, in the furtheſt parte of Lancaſhire, where there reſorted vnto her certayne Seminarie prieſtes, by whoſe cõiurations and magical inchauntments, (as it is reported) the evil ſpirit was brought into her againe, ſince which time ſhe hath bene exceedinglie tormẽted, and ſo ſtill cõtinueth like Sõmers repoſſeſſed.

As therefore the good providence of God may be diſcerned in the diſpoſing of all things, ſo alſo it ſheweth it ſelfe moſt clearelie in the wel ordering of this whole

action, if it be well obſerued.

Firſt in ſending me with Mai. Darrell
be a witnes of thoſe ſtraunge and vnwo
ted workes of God.

Secondlie, in not vſing Mai. Darrell
the chiefe inſtrument, neither for the di
poſſeſſing of the ſix the firſte day, nor y
for the deliuerance of the ſeauenth on t
ſecond day.

Thirdlie, in that without his labor th
were prepared by faith and prayer and
ther ſpirituall armour to reſiſt the euil ſp
rit, by meanes whereof they were preſe
ued from Repoſſeſſion. For if Mai. Darr
had bene the chiefeſt in diſpoſſeſſinge
theſe 7. and of Thomas Darling, as he w
of other two, namely of Katherine Wrig
and of William Sommers: then ſurelie
would haue bene thought that he had h
ſome ſpeciall gifte that way aboue oth
men, and this diſcouerer might haue h
the greater ſhew of advantage in chargi
him ſo deepelie and ſo often with th
matter.

For which cauſe queſtionles it pleaſ
God to preuent him in theſe 7. And as f
Thomas Darling, Mai. Darrell onlie ga
adviſe to his friendes to faſt and pray, a
humble them ſelues on his behalfe, and
the

they did, neither he nor any other Preacher being preſent, it pleaſed God at their prayers, being but 9 or 10 ſimple people to be intreated, and to deliuer the partie from that poſſeſſion, that ſo by diuers and ſundry experimentes, it might appeare to all the world that this is no extraordinarie gifte, peculiar to any one man, but common to all the faithfull, aſwell to one as to another, and that the meane and ſimple people may haue as great priuiledge and power to caſt out Satan, by their faith and faſting and fervent prayer, as either he, or I, or the beſt and chiefeſt Preacher.

Out of the premiſſed then it may be collected that if there bee any evill in this worke, it is rather to be imputed vnto me then vnto Ma. Darrel: for in trueth (as the Lord liveth) there is no occaſion of euill in him concerning this matter; for if hee had wrought craftilie at other times, and practiſed deceyte: why ſhould it not haue appeared and broken out aſwell in dealing with theſe 7 as in other places; but I am perſwaded (ſuch is his ſimplicitie) that he is as cleare, and was euer as free from coũterfayting, as I my ſelfe am. And I dare boldlie proteſt euen before the Lord, that ſuch a thought came neuer once into my minde.

Now

Nowe howsoeuer it might seeme more expediēt for me to be silent in these things least I should seeme, or be taken even as a foole in boasting my self: yet herein I may say with the Apostle, you haue euen compelled me: for indeed so great is the incōvenience that hath come by the misconceyuing and misreporting of this matter of facte, as that it hath enforced a necessitie of manifesting the trueth therof in the plainest maner which yet hitherto for modesties sake, hath bene suppressed for the space of 3 yeares, and likelie neuer to haue come to light, if our innocencie could haue bene cleared without it.

But now I must returne to the Discouerer, and proceed to performe my promise, which is, to proue, that the purpose of the Detectour, to make Mai. Darrell the principal agent in this dispossessiō, is onlie vnder a pretence & not that he is so perswaded, my reasons are these: First to pretend Mai. Darrell to be principall, in this, aswel as in all the rest, is great pollicie: for vnder this pretēce, all that they charge him with concerning teaching of Sommers, hath the greater colour of trueth. Secondly, by inforcing this, as they doe much in their booke, it doeth more easilie perswade men

to

to beleeue, that he is a verie common and lewde practizer and deceiuer. Thirdlie, by this title of principall, & in al places where he comes to bee the chiefeſt, it preſuppoſeth an extraordinarie iugling ſkill, and a ſingular cunning in legerdemaine, as they terme it: wherevpon they ſaye that when he beganne with Katherine Wright, then he dealt but rudelie and vnſkilfullie: but after he had practized with Thomas Darling and the 7 of Lancaſhire, then he was his craftes maiſter. Fourthlie, It helpes to iuſtifie that accuſation of vaine glorie, and that he deſires to haue a great name, and to make him ſelfe famous, or ells that he is the onelie man that hath a peculiar prerogatiue to caſt out Devills aboue all men, ſeeing that where-ſoeuer he comes, hee beares a way the bell (as they ſay) and that no bodie can doe the feate but he. Fiftlie, vnder this pretence they may with leſſe preiudice proceede againſt him; ſeeing that in foure ſeuerall actions, though they finde ſome acceſſories, yet they finde none principall but him ſelfe. And thus pollicie hath preferred him to bee principall, when in deed they know hee is not; ſo of purpoſe to doe him a miſchiefe, and to diſhonour the cauſe it ſelfe, euen the great

worke

worke of God.

And that they are not perſwaded, that hee is the principall in this worke, it may thus appeare: Becauſe they haue the ſtorie of this matter of Lancaſhire penned by Mai. Dickoms, as is plainely confeſſed and prooued in the Diſcouerie, wherein the diſpoſſeſſion of theſe 7 is moſt plainly deſcribed, with the circumſtances thereof, according to that which I haue heere ſet downe. And therein Mai. Darr. (except that hee was the man that was ſent for to come, and principallie aymed at) is made equall. Concerning this booke I ſpeake that which I know, for I was examined, in that whole ſtory out of it, from the beginning to the ende: and yet the Diſcouerer will take no knowledge of this matter, which is written there, (though it be moſt ſure & certayne) becauſe it makes againſt him, and takes the raſh teſtimonie of the printer, which ſpake onelie as hee heard, that Mai. Darrell was the man: and as for Mai. Darrell him ſelfe in his teſtimonie, it was eyther miſtaken or miſreported: for I dare ſay, that he would not ſay, that thoſe 7 were deliuered or diſpoſſeſſed by him principallie: yet the diſcouerie vrgeth both theſe teſtimonies to the full, becauſe they

ſeeme

ſeeme much to make for him in all the former reſpectes.

If then, this may bee receyued for the trueth, as in deed it is, I doubt not but that all ſuſpition of counterfayting and coniuring, and of all other bad dealing wherewith we haue ben moſt vniuſtlie charged, may be remoued; as alſo that groſſe errour which is tootoo commõ, of aſcribing anie gift or extraordinarie power of caſting out of Devills, to anie one man, more then to another, may be both convinced and ſuppreſſed: for herein all men may moſt clearlie ſee, that the good hande of God, (in bleſſing his own ordinance, and the poore endeuours of his ſervants) is the onely inward, & efficient cauſe of this great worke of diſpoſſeſſiõ, that ſo all the glorie therof, may wholie & onely be aſcribed vnto him, who worketh all thinges, according to the pleaſure of his own wil, to whom be prayſe for euer.

The laſt

The last part.

NOw it followeth last of all, to set dow
the signes of dispoſſ. shewed forth b
these 7 immediatlie before their deliu
rance, in, and after the same: and therwi
also brieflie to shewe the retourne of t
spirites being cast out: how sundrie time
and diuers wayes by many strange & fea
full assaultes, they seeke to reenter: whic
also may serue, as an answer to that proo
of the Discouerie, contayned in the 9 an
10. chap. touching those pointes, that
these signes being conferred according
divine and historicall obseruation, tho
that be indifferentlie minded, may bee
ble to iudge what cause they haue to scor
these signes, and to sport them selues wi
them, as they doe.

The first signe to manifest these dispo
was, that the spirites did rent, and tea
the possessed, insomuch that they were s
rer vexed and tormented immediatlie b
fore they left them, and euen as it were
their departure, then ever they were at
nie time before: so it is saide, when Chr
charged the spirite to come out of the
chil

childe, then the ſpirit rent him ſore, & after came out, Marke 9. 26.

The ſeconde ſigne is that they cryed out with loude voyces, and roared out exceedinglie, after the manner of beaſtes, moſt fearfull and lamentable to heare, beeing neuer ſo fierce and outragious in anie of their fittes, as euen then when the ſpirites were forced and compelled to come out of them. And of this ſigne it is thus written, *ſ.* that vncleane ſpirites, crying with a loude voyce, came out of manie that were poſſeſſed, Act. 8. 7.

Thirdlie, they were caſt downe ſuddenlie, & lay all along ſtretched out as if they had bene dead, and ſo leaving them as dead, the evill ſpirites departed from thē. And thus it is written of the childe whom Chriſt diſpoſſeſt: when the vncleane ſpirit came out, he was as one deade, inſomuch that manie ſaid, he is dead, Mark 9. 26.

Fourthlie, the evill ſpirites departed out of the poſſeſſed in the likenes of ſome vglie creature: and euerie one of the 7 ſawe and perceyued the ſpirites to departe out in a ſeuerall likenes: one, in the likenes of a crowes head, round, which when it was out, went and ſatt in a corner of the parlour, with darknes about it a while, then went

went it out of the windowe with ſuch a flaſh of lightning, that all the parlour ſeemed to her to be on a light fire: It left alſo behinde it in the maide a ſoare throat, & a moſt filthie ſmell, in ſo much that her meate was verie vnſavorie for a weeke after.

Margret Byrom.

Another ſaid, it went out like a man with a great bulche on his backe, as bigge as a man: verie evill-favoured and vglie to beholde.

John Starkie.

The third ſawe him goe out like an vrchine or hedgehogge, and crept as ſhee thought, out at a verie little hole of the window.

Ellynor Hardman

The fourth like a fowle vglie man, with a white beard, and a great bulch on his breaſt, bigger then a mans head.

Anne Starkie.

The fifte like a blacke man, or like the fourth, as afore ſaid.

Ellē Hoſland

The ſixt perceyued it to goe out in the likenes of a great breath vglie like a toad, and round like a ball.

Iane Aſhton.

The laſt like an vglie man with a great bunch on his backe, &c.

Margret Hardman

Fiftlie, the evill ſpirits did preſentlie returne vnto them againe in the ſame likenes that they went out, and ſought to reenter, and, being reſiſted, they departed, & then

then returned after in other likeneſſes ſeeking ſtill both by promiſes & threatnings to prevaile: ſomtimes cõming in the likenes of a man profering bagges of golde and ſiluer, and ſhewing them all maner of coſtlie and ſumptuous things: tempting them therby to yeeld vnto him, and to let him in: enforcing his temptations by promiſing of honours & pleaſures, and great preferments, of the retourne of the ſpirit, when he is caſt out, and his ſeeking to reenter, we read in Mat. 12. Luk. 11. And for his diuerſitie of temptations and large offers to prevaile, it is evident in his dealing againſt Chriſt, Math. 4. In theſe aſſaults to reenter, the ſpirits appeared ſometimes in the likenes of a beare with open mouth, ſomtimes of an ape, ſometimes of a bigge blacke dogg, ſomtimes of a black Raven, with a gellow bill, ſomtimes of a flame of fire, ſomtimes of diuers whelpes, but moſt vſually in the likeneſſe of Edmõd Hartley a coniurer, who had bewitched them, and was hanged alſo at Lancaſter, for that facte, and for coniuring. In theſe apparitions, if hee could not prevaile with his large offers, and faire promiſſes, then would he terrifie them with verye fearfull threatnings: As that he would caſt them into pitts, or breake their necks, or ſome

other way to plague them, saying that they should neuer prosper.

Wherevpon when he saw, that in assaulting of them, he lost al his labour and prevailed not, hee laboured at the length to be revenged of them, for resisting of him: to which purpose hee did trouble them in all the partes of their bodies: in their eyes with manie vncomfortable sights, to terrifie them: he tyed their tongues that they could not pray, nor speake as they should: he pinched them in their armes, that they could not lift them vp, nor stirre them for a good space: he pricket them in their knees, and in their legges that they could not goe, or yet if they did goe, that then they went lame and limping for an houre or two together, and could not possibly goe vp right: they had paine also in their feete, and in their head: thus they were molested, but they still so resisted that they gaue him the foyle, so that in the end hee was forced to leaue them and to flee away.

Sixtly they being all dispossest by fasting and prayer, according to the ordinance of Christ, since that time, all their swellings and torments haue ceased, neither haue they bin troubled or vexed with any more fitts: Only Iane Ashton being repossessed,

hath

hath manifested the same by sundrie fearfull signes, and is now become worse then she was, euery way: but as for the rest, they haue continued now for the space of two yeares & a half very peaceable and quiet, neither haue they shewed forth any signe of possession, nor any suspition thereof.

Lastly they all gaue great thanks to God, for their deliuerance, and that of themselues so freely and cherefully in so excellent & heavenly maner, as that they could neuer doe the like, neither before, nor since: they are also so changed in their conditions, and their maners so well reformed, that a man shall heare no evill come from them, nor any vnseemely behaviour: and now they can pray, and take delight in praysing God. They goe to church, to heare the word, and continue there with much comfort, and are euery way better then they were before.

And thus I haue finished this discourse, wherein I haue delt faithfully to my power, and whereby I haue detected this discouerer to be a great deceyuer: like a Traveyler that takes vpon him to discouer diuers countries, wherein hee neuer came, and to describe the state & people of certaine new-found landes, the scituation

whereof he neuer knew or heard of, on
a meere fiction of his owne invention.
Thus hath this detractour deale with vs;
with this most honourable and famo
fact of Lancashire: In describing it to be
vayne and ridiculous practize, detectin
therein great deceite, and much legerd
mayne: and yet for all that, he neuer sa
the practize of it with his eyes, neither di
he euer heare any evill detected, or decei
vsed therein. This worke was neuer ye
called in question nor euer examined b
way of tryall, as is plainly confessed in th
Discouerie: and hitherto there hath no
bene found any one witnesse to bring i
any evidence to proue it counterfaite, no
any Christian euer yet heard to open hi
mouth to speake any evill against it.

The Reader therefore may much wonder at the intollerable boldnes of this malicious Accuser, that dare vndertake to discouer men & their dealings, especially Preachers of the Gospell to be lewde cousiners, and most notorious deceyvers, and yet neuer saw nor knew any evil by them, or any sure and certaine signes of any suspitiō therof. And may also see how iniurious they are, to this vnblameable work, that in an vnsatiable desire to discredite it,

they

hey haue caſt an evill name vpon it, defaming it for a fraudulent practize, though it was neuer tryed, nor yet euer detected to haue deceyte or bad dealing in it, by any in the worlde beſides themſelues: which yet being meere ſtraungers to the cauſe, will needs condemne it before they heare it, and punith the parties that haue practized in it, as moſt impious, before they know what evill they haue done: And now hauing thus wronged vs being iuſt men, yea both robbed and wounded vs, as I may ſay: We muſt be bound to the peace, and muſt promiſe neither to publiſh nor practize theſe matters: or els remaine priſoners ſtill, with expectation of further puniſhment, which wee are willing to endure, ſeeing we cannot chuſe but ſpeake thoſe thinges, which wee haue both heard & ſeene.

(.·.)

This diſcourſe good Reader was diſpatched in December laſt. The difficultie of printing hath hindred the publiſhing of it thus longe.